

CLAIMS:

1. A contact device comprising:

fixed terminals respectively provided with fixed contacts;

5 a movable plate carrying movable contacts each making a contacting engagement with each one of said fixed contacts;

a drive mechanism which drives said movable plate to make the contacting engagement of said movable contacts with said fixed contacts;

a housing which accommodates therein said fixed contacts, said movable plate, and said drive mechanism;

10 wherein said movable plate being a Z-shape having a contact member carrying said movable contacts, a leg upstanding from said contact member, and a supporting member which is coupled at its one end to said leg and is fixed at the other end to said drive mechanism,

15 said movable contacts being given a first force by said drive mechanism along a direction for bringing said movable contacts into contact with said fixed contacts and given a second force by deformation of said supporting member resulted from an overtravel of the movable plate through said leg,

20 said fixed contacts and said movable contacts being arranged such that a resultant force of said first force and second force acts in a direction normal to a contact surface defined between said fixed contacts and said movable contacts.

2. The contact device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said contact member has a cut between said movable contacts.

25 3. The contact device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said leg has a protrusion running along a direction in which said leg upstands.

4. The contact device as set forth in claim 1, further including a protrusion which is in contact with both surfaces of said leg and said contact

member at a connecting part between said leg and said contact member.

5. The contact device as set forth in claim 1, wherein
said contact member has two movable contacts,

5 said leg upstanding from a line joining each center of said two movable contacts.

6. The contact device as set forth in claim 1, wherein
said drive mechanism has a bobbin on which a coil is wound,

said housing having a base which each of said fixed terminals penetrates,

10 said base and said bobbin being integrally molded from the same material along
with a stopper for restricting a movement of said movable plate in a direction in
which said movable contact separates from said fixed contacts.

7. The contact device as set forth in claim 1, wherein

15 said housing has a base which each of said fixed terminals penetrates,
said base being integrally molded from the same material with an arc-extinguishing
box that surrounds said fixed contacts and said movable contacts to extinguish an
arc generated between said fixed contacts and said movable contacts.

20 8. The contact device as set forth in claim 1, wherein

said housing comprises a base which each of said fixed terminals penetrates and
an arc-extinguishing cover which is attached to said base so that it surrounds said
fixed contacts and said movable contacts to extinguish an arc generated between
said fixed contacts and said movable contacts and covers said drive mechanism.

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